

# MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

## January 4, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1<sup>st</sup> floor auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Chairman George Phillips.

### **Commission Members Present:**

MS Department of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Tom Lariviere
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchlitter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
MS Department of Health	Brian Amy
MS National Guard	Gary Ladd
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Clovis Reed
MS Emergency Management Agency	Tom McAllister
Safe City Initiative	Mark McCreery
MS Department of Homeland Security	Jay Ledbetter

### **Advisory Members Present:**

Senator Tom King  
Senator Jack Gordon  
Senator Tommy Robertson

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Chairman Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Willie Huff requested that on the second page, "contract evaluation" be changed to "contract negotiation". Clovis Reed made the motion to approve the minutes with the amendment, and it was seconded by Tom Lariviere. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Rules Committee. Two of the three requests from the last meeting were revisited. Jackson County withdrew their request. Both Rankin and Hinds Counties presented answers to the additional questions proposed at the December meeting.

Rankin County wishes to add two tower sites to an existing system for a total cost of \$4.5 million. Chairman Phillips and David Litchlitter discussed how the Commission would know if the proposed towers would benefit the statewide system. Senator Jack Gordon questioned the cost of building a single tower. Clovis Reed inquired as to how this would be funded. E911 funds will cover the cost. Chairman Phillips questioned the Rankin County representative as to whether or not Rankin County would be willing to join with the Commission when it is developing the specifications, and would they be willing to negotiate with the Commission on the use of the tower sites. The representative responded that he could not commit without the permission from his board of supervisors. Chris Epps asked what agencies are currently using the Rankin County system. The representative replied that Hudspeth, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and the State Hospital. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request for the two towers. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, and it was approved with none opposed.

Rankin County had one other pending request, which had been submitted at the December meeting. The Rankin County Sheriff's office requested to upgrade equipment for a total cost of \$579,000. The upgrade will be compatible with what the state is proposing. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request, James Newman seconded the request, and it was unanimously approved.

Larry Fisher of Hinds County presented their responses to the additional questions presented at last month's Commission meeting. The proposed Hinds County system upgrade will allow the City of Jackson to become part of the system and be fully compatible with Hinds and surrounding counties. 1,300 to 1,400 hand and mobile units that are both digital and analog will be provided, and the consoles in the EOC will be replaced. The total cost for this system will be \$8.5 million. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. Tom Lariviere seconded the request. Mr. Litchliter questioned how the system would be interoperable. There was a discussion of how the system would be interoperable through groups. Mr. Huff pointed out that \$5.4 million of the \$8.5 million would be for subscriber units. The Commission voted, and the motion was approved with none opposed.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular RFP Committee. The clarifications to the vendor proposals were received at the end of December. The committee will meet on January 7<sup>th</sup> to conclude evaluations. Chairman Phillips stated that he will call a special meeting in January to consider the award. Notices of the called meeting will be posted no later than 5:00 pm on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Willie Huff reported for the Interoperability Committee. MEMA has reconfigured their system, and they will be ready to retest the system before June.

Gary Ladd reported for the Governance Committee. He made the suggestion to hire a project manager and an administrative assistant for the Commission. Jay Ledbetter suggested Bill Buffington for the project manager. The Commission determined the project manager would be hired as an independent contractor. Chairman Phillips questioned Senator Jack Gordon as to how to arrive at salaries for the staff. He responded that John Mulholland at the State Personnel Board could provide suggestions. Jay Ledbetter made a motion to hire Bill Buffington as project manager for the WCC and provide him with a staff of three. Clovis Reed seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed.

Willie Huff reported for the Contract Negotiation Committee. The Committee is working to get a contract signed and have something in place just after the start of the hurricane season. The contract will be sent to the attorneys in February, and hopefully will be signed by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Phillips discussed the hiring of Butler Snow law firm for the WCC for assistance with the negotiation of the Motorola contract. He stated that the WCC should have two attorneys available during the process, but the second one has not yet been chosen.

There was no discussion of other business.

The next regular meeting will be February 1, 2007, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.